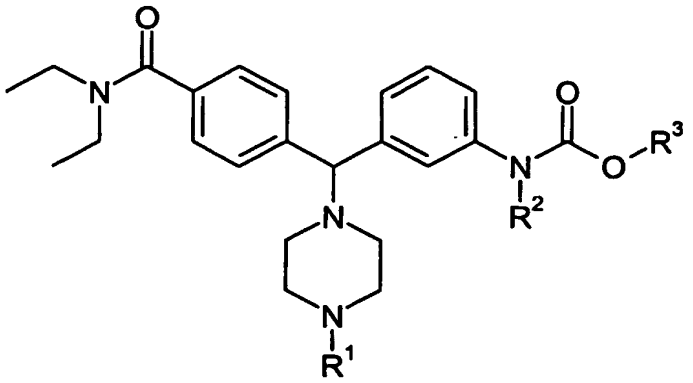
What is claimed is :

1. A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



I

wherein

R^1 is selected from –H, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, and C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, and C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, $-NO_2$, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^2 is selected from -H, C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; and

R^3 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is $-CH_2-R^4$, wherein R^4 is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl, wherein said phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R^2 is selected from –H and C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^3 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl.

3. A compound according to claim 2,

wherein R^4 is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; pyrrolyl and thiazolyl;

R^2 is selected from –H and methyl; and

R^3 is selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl and isopropyl.

4. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is –H;

R^2 is selected from –H and C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^3 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl.

5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

Methyl 3-[(4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)methyl]phenylcarbamate;

Methyl-3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(thien-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(thien-3-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(2-furylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(3-furylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1H-imidazol-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(pyridin-4-yl-methyl) piperazin-1-yl} methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

[3-[[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]phenyl]-carbamic acid methyl ester;

[3-[(*S*)-[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][4-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]phenyl]- carbamic acid, methyl ester;

[3-[(*S*)-[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][4-(2-thiazolylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]phenyl]- carbamic acid, methyl ester;

Methyl 3-{(*R*)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{(*S*)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{(*R*)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-5-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{(*S*)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-5-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

[3-[[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]phenyl]- carbamic acid, methyl ester;

enantiomers thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1-5 for use as a medicament.

7. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders.

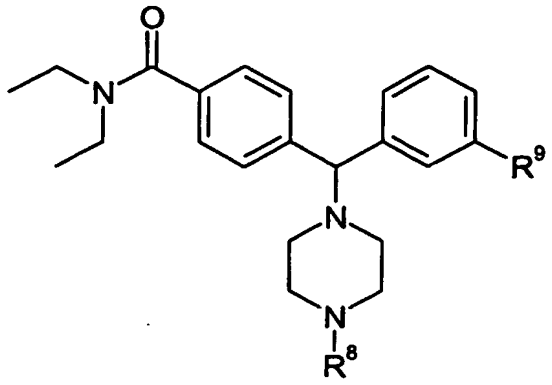
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising: administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5.

10. A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising: administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5.

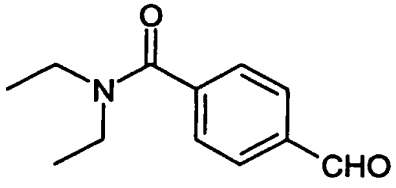
11. A method for the therapy of anxiety in a warm-blooded animal, comprising: administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5.

12. A process for preparing a compound of formula II, comprising:



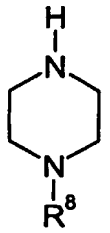
II

a) reacting a compound of formula III:



III

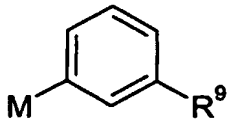
with a compound of formula IV



IV

in the presence of benzotriazole; and

b) reacting a product formed in step a) with a compound of formula V to form the compound of formula II,



V

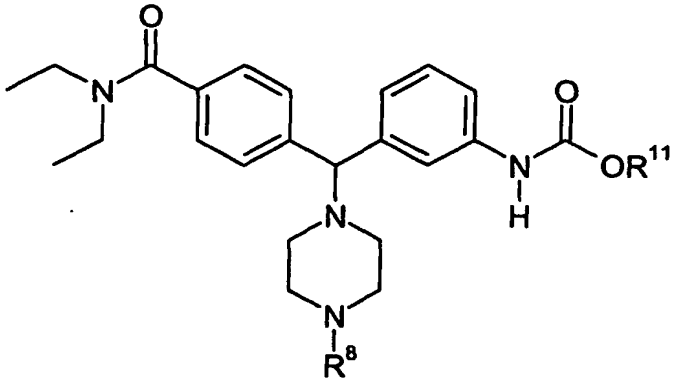
wherein

R^8 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, and C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, and C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

M is selected from Li, Na, K, $-ZnX^1$, and $-MgX^1$, wherein X^1 is a halogen; and

R^9 is selected from hydrogen, -R, $-NO_2$, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}hydrocarbyl.

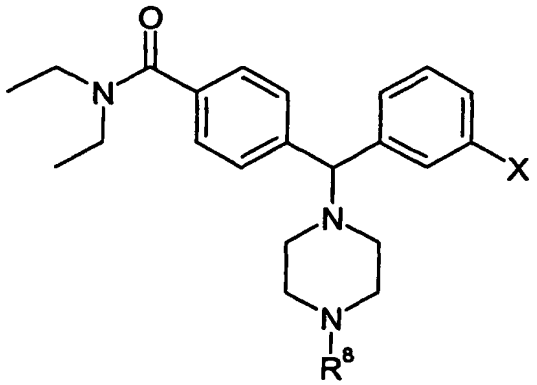
13. A process for preparing a compound of formula VII:



VII,

comprising:

reacting a compound of formula VIII



VIII

with a C_{1-6}alkylcarbamate to form the compound of formula VII,

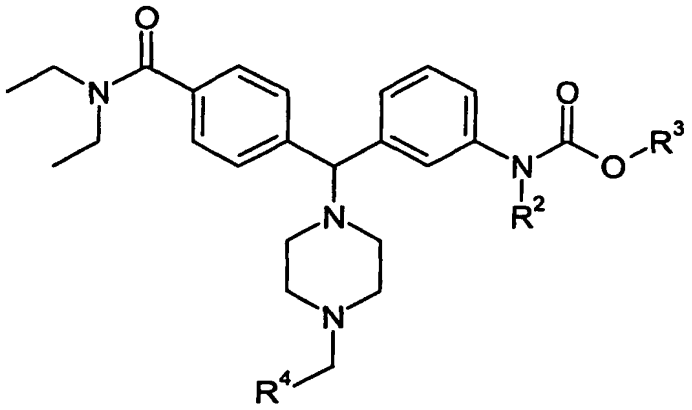
wherein

R^8 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, and C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, and C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

X is selected from halogen, triflate, and sulfonamide; and

R^{11} is a C_{1-6}alkyl.

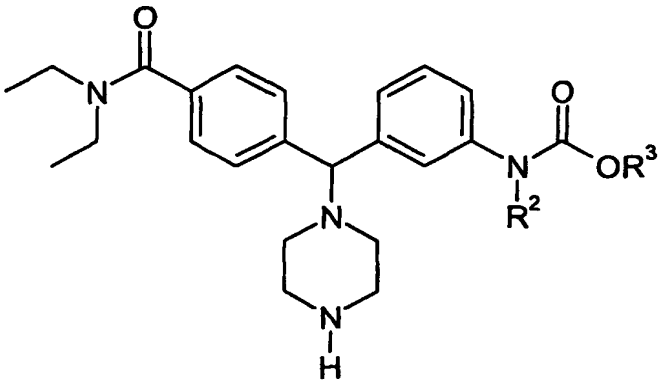
14. A process for preparing a compound of formula X,



X

comprising:

reacting a compound of formula IX,



IX

with R^4-CHO to form the compound of formula X,

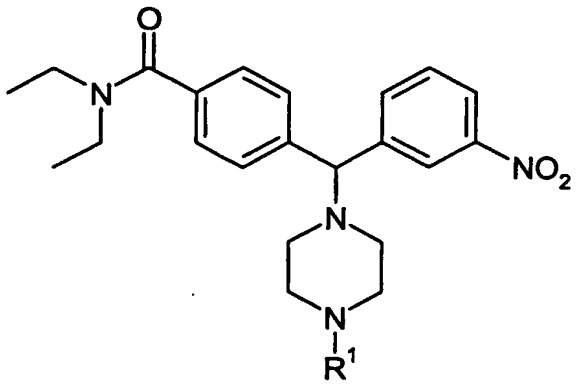
wherein

R^4 is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl, wherein said phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R^2 is selected from -H, C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; and

R^3 is selected from -H, C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl.

15. A compound of formula XI, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



XI

wherein

R^1 is selected from –H, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, and C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, and C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups

selected from -R, $-NO_2$, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl.